THE LITTLE PILGRIM

"Ye will go up by the King's highway"

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A Sure Promise.

A SURE PROMISE.

(Picture Story.)

ETHEL was reading in her Book of Promises. It was not a new book, and she had often read in it before, but you know a thing always grows precious when you begin to need it. Now this Promise-book Ethel had had for a whole year, almost, for grandmother had given it to her on her last birthday, and it was all full of lovely promises copied out of the Bible, and yet Ethel had never cared much about it till to-day.

"What you reading, Ethel, dear?" said Lily in a sad little voice, coming up to lean her head on her shoulder. The little girl's eyes were red with weeping, and her voice sounded weak and tired, the way it does when you have cried a long time. Poor little Lily did n't know much about trouble, and it came hard the first time.

"Look at this page of 'Fear nots'!" said Ethel, holding the book so that both her little sisters could see. "I used to call them the 'Don't be afraids.'"

"Read 'bout it," said Maggie.

"'When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee,'" read Ethel slowly. "I heard grandmother say something about 'water' this morning. She was coming out of mamma's room just after the doctor went away, and she pulled papa's head down and 'poored' it and I heard her say, 'Deep waters, Jerome, but they shall not overflow.' And a little while after I heard her humming 'How firm a foundation.' You can always tell what grandma thinks about by her hymns. I can."

"Let 's go up and ask her to sing it to us," said Lily, who felt like being cuddled.

There was a great old rocking-chair in grandma's room that the children always called the cradle-chair. It was such a good place for babies and little folks to be rocked in. Whenever anybody felt bad, the best thing he could do was to go up to grandma's room and snuggle down a while in the cradle-chair. Nobody minded that the black horsehair was worn off in spots and the carved roses on top broken off. Its old arms had been worn out with comforting people, and that is enough to make anything or anybody seem good-looking, if you know about it. So they all three got into it and grandmother sang: —

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid;
I 'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I cause thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow.

The dear old voice stopped singing right in the middle of the verse about "deep waters," to take up little Lily, who had dropped fast asleep in the big old chair.

"You do the very same thing, dearies," she told the others. "Rest your little sore hearts on the promise. The dear mamma is very sick, but the Lord can make her well just as easy! And anyway there 's the promise — a sure promise. Put your head on that pillow."

And they did. And what do you think they heard when they waked up the next morning? That the doctor said that mamma was better!

LESSON STORY.

Crossing the Jordan. (Joshua 3:5-17.)

It was Joshua now who was leading the people. You know that Moses was dead. He had gone up into the mountain when God called him, and after a while God told the people that their great leader was dead, and they must now obey Joshua as they had obeyed Moses. So one day God told Joshua to get the people ready to cross the river, for to-morrow they were all to go over. Think of it! No bridges, no boats, no shallow places to ford, and not only strong men to make the crossing, but women and little children. No wonder if they were a little bit afraid when they looked at the deep swift stream, and thought of to-morrow.

The next morning Joshua was up early, like a good general, and all the people were ready and they came to the banks of the river, where God had told them just what to do, and in what order to go over.

The first great order was not to be afraid. God cannot do anything with people who will not trust him. The priests were to take the Ark on their shoulders and walk down to the edge of the water, and walk right in. God promised that no harm should happen to them, and his word came true, for as soon as their feet touched the water it stopped and stood still, and no more water came down from above, and so there was a dry, stony path in the river-bottom, with what seemed like a wall of water to guard them as they went over. The priests stood still in the river, and all the people passed by, men, women, and little children, with dry feet, till all were gone over.

"By this," the Lord had told them, when he brought them to the bank of the river, "by this you shall know that I will surely drive out all those people that now live in the land, and give you a home to dwell in." He told them beforehand just what to do, and just what would happen, so they saw how great and strong he was, and it helped them to believe in him.

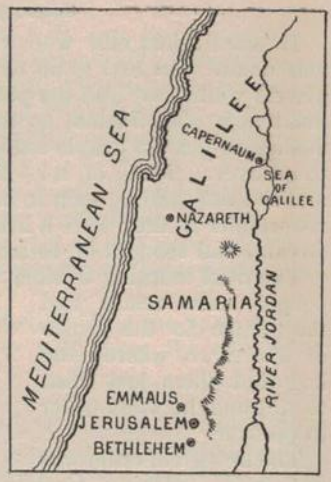
Before they had taken one step over the river, God told them to get ready to set up a memorial of the crossing. They were to choose out twelve men, one out of each tribe, and after they were all over, these men were each to take up a big stone out of the dry bed of the river and carry it over and set it up on the other bank for a monument.

GOLDEN TEXT. — **When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee.** — Isaiah 43:2.

PICTURE HELPS.

When you hear the word "Jordan," you must think of rocky banks and strong, rushing waters — a great stream or flood that sweeps everything out of its way in its deep crooked channel. Reeds and plants that love to suck up moisture grow on the banks, with tamarisk trees, acacias, silver poplars, willows, and many others. Wonderful birds live in the branches. Lions and leopards used to have their home in the jungle, and many other wild beasts that fled in terror for their lives when they saw the river rising. And yet it was at full flood that the Israelites went over.

There are no cities on the banks of the Jordan. The city of Jericho, which was opposite the Israelites' landing-place, was full five miles away. There are no ships or boats on its waters, and there used to be no bridges.



LESSON QUESTIONS.

1. What did Joshua tell the people to do?
2. What did he promise that the Lord would do the next day?
3. What lay between them and the Promised Land?
4. What did God tell the priests to do?
5. Why were they to stand still till all the people had gone over?
6. For what were twelve men chosen?
7. What happened as soon as the feet of the priests touched the water?
8. What kind of a river is the Jordan?
9. Who went right through the dry, stony path in the midst of it?
10. What did this way of crossing show their enemies?
11. How did it help their own faith?
12. What is one lesson for us in it?
13. What promise must we remember?

KEY to Lesson Questions. 1. Get ready to go into Canaan. 2. He said he would do wonders among them. 3. The river Jordan. 4. Take the ark of the covenant on their shoulders and walk down into the river. 5. To show them that the holy ark, which was the sign of God's presence, was all their safety. 6. To carry twelve stones over and set up for a monument. 7. The river stopped flowing, and a wide path was laid bare in the waters. 8. Very swift and deep. 9. Men and women and little children. 10. That the God of the Israelites could do anything, and they ought to be afraid of him. 11. It taught them to depend on his promises in other things. 12. Not to be afraid of things that look hard. 13. Golden Text.

HONOR ROLL.

The Lord's Prayer, Twenty-third Psalm, Beatitudes, Ten Commandments, and Apostles' Creed: — Earle Julian, Fred Robinson, Ralph Singleton, Earle Wingate, Bruce Converse, John Fuller, Eddie Lehman, Lillian Wingate, Marie Mulligan, Edith Hoffman, Nellie Chapman, Bertha Davis, Alice Devolt, Mabel Demuth, Oma Polley, Helen Clark, Grace Houston, Mabel Everett, Earl Huffman, Annie Clark, Grace Cockins, Eva Herron, Orre Hazeltine, Howell Edwards.

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